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25X1A

SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 21 March 1952

SUBJECT Foreign Fxchange, Gold and Diamond Transactions, Tientsin

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE OF INFO. 25X1

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- 1. The black market still functions in Communist China but all transactions are done with utmost caution and only among reliable contacts.
- 2. For check or letter payments in the United States a premium of 50 percent over the official rate of exchange is demanded. This is for ordinary transactions where there is a certain element of gamble.
- 3. Gold bullion trading is also prominent but only among reliable contacts.
- 4. Diamond trading is brisk. Wealthy Chinese families are selling jewels secretly in order to live. A one carat diamond pure white stone costs US \$600.00 or the equivalent at the official rate in JMP.
- 5. The government is known to be in dire need of foreign exchange with which to purchase war materials. The Soviet Union, although pouring supplies into China, apparently cannot supply all the needs of China.

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No Change in Class. ☐

☐ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S C

Auth: HR 70-2

Date: 13 SEP 1978

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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT North China Wool and Bristle Trade

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1. All China wool supplies are controlled by the Mao Yi Kung Ssu¹ which is the Government trade bureau. Wool is being bartered with Czechoslovakia and China seems to come out on the short end of this trade. The wool is processed in Europe and converted into materials which in turn are exported to the United States.
2. Bristles are also handled by the Mao Yi Kung Ssu and exported to the USSR.
3. Limited supplies of bristles are being permitted for export to Hong Kong. Trade in bristles between Hong Kong and Canada is now in process of development. Some of these bristles will go to the United States.

25X1A Comment. The name of this organization is as supplied by source. Possibly the characters are 貿易公司, Government Trade Company.

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REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR.

21 March 1952

SUBJECT 1. Salaries of Chinese Judges, Tientsin
2. Prison Conditions, Tientsin

NO. OF PAGES

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DATE OF INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The salaries of judges in Tientsin is 460 catties of millet per month, worth at the official rate JMP 1,200 per catty or about US \$0.20.
2. The Hsi Tao Jail is the large prison in the West City, Tientsin. There are cells for solitary confinement up to some holding more than one hundred; a cell for 7 to 10 prisoners was 10 feet by 11 feet. The prison area contains buildings for men and women which are divided into sections for criminals, political prisoners, and those awaiting execution. Conditions are filthy and verminous; sanitary provisions are almost non-existent. Bathing is permitted once a month in a trough seven feet square, prisoners bathing after officials have used the same water; toilet facilities consist of a stone crock in the cell. The entire jail is damp and overrun with rats.
3. Some prisoners are permitted food baskets once a week in limited quantity; on delivery certain foods are confiscated. Prison food is a diet of starvation. At the Hsi Tao Jail about 50 prisoners died each week, but the population remained the same. Buildings were in bad repair with only paper on the barred windows and in most cells no heating in the winter. Fuel for stoves provided by friends of prisoners was also subject to confiscation.
4. All prisoners are obliged to work, foreign as well as Chinese. Criminals do hard labor; political and foreign prisoners do translation work. Political prisoners were regarded more seriously than criminals and are confined alone. Most are executed, but in some cases where the police think they can get information to incriminate others they subject political prisoners to mental torture. All Chinese prisoners are treated severely and put through an indoctrination and "brain washing". The general pattern is to mould them into informers. Foreign prisoners were subject to a subtle form of indoctrination; the evils of imperialism and the virtues of Communism were constantly emphasized.

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-2-

5. In October 1951 in Hsi Tao Jail were large groups of Chinese Buddhist monks charged with opposing Communism in China. Many were executed because of their adamant attitude and refusal to accept indoctrination and "brain washing". Chinese Christian priests who refused to repent were executed. A number of foreign priests were confined, largely French, and in the minority Dutch, Italian and Spanish.

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